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5 U. S. Lawyers Block CIA Agent's Replies

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BALTIMORE, April 27—The five Washington lawyers to the United States District Court here Thursday to close the door of legal discovery on the agency's clandestine operations in this country. They succeeded.

In a confused, three-hour hearing before Chief Judge Roszel C. Thomasen, the government attorneys repeatedly removed the CIA agent from the witness stand to confer privately before permitting him to answer questions. They declined to let him answer many questions at all.

During one half-hour period, the lawyers twice took the CIA man, Juri Raus, from the witness stand and into an anteroom or into Judge Thomasen's chambers for a total of more than 15 minutes to clear his answer to a single question about his contacts with the Federal Bureau of Investigation before he was allowed to respond in open court.

Returning to the witness chair, Raus nonetheless took his lawyers by surprise by replying "yes" to a question they said they had expected him to answer "no," and another five-minute out-of-court conference was called.

The slip-up, however, appeared to have provided no significant information.

At another point, one of the

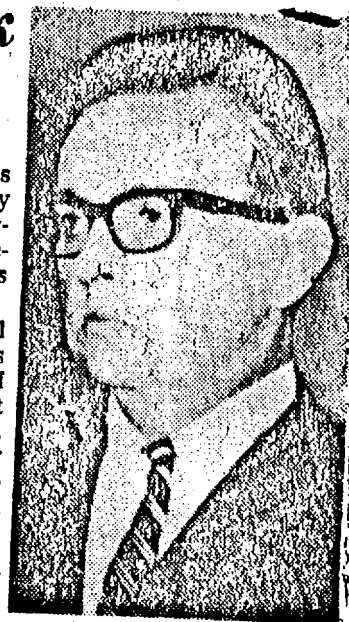
five lawyers objected to Raus's answering a question posed by Paul R. Connolly, a private lawyer working with the CIA to defend Raus. The objection was sustained by Judge Thomson.

The CIA normally keeps all but its two top-ranking officials behind an opaque barrier of anonymity. But the agency sent its general counsel, Lawrence R. Houston, to act as a secrecy umpire during Thursday's questioning of Raus for a deposition in the \$110,000 civil slander suit against him.

Eerick Heine, a colleague of Raus, in Estonian emigre organizations in this country and Canada, filed the suit after Raus publicly labeled him a Soviet agent. The defense contends Raus was acting under CIA orders when he did this and thus is immune for any law suit.

Both the government and Raus' lawyers, have asked Judge Thomson to dismiss the slander suit summarily. They also contend that a trial, which would require the CIA to produce witnesses in support of its allegations against Heine, would "not be in the interest of the security of the United States" because such appearances would further compromise the agency's secrecy.

Judge Thomson scheduled further argument for 2 p.m.



**Eerick Heine
Sues for Slander**